KANSAS PROSPEROUS.

FARMERS RAPIDLY PAYING OFF MORTGAGE INDEBTEDNESS.

CONDITIONS ARE EXCELLENT.

PROSPECTS HAVE NOT BEEN SO EN-COURAGING FOR MANY YEARS.

Reports Received by Concordia Loan and Trust Company From Its Correspondents Make a Splendid Showing for

From the reports which have been received by the Concordia Loan and Trust Company, of this city, from its correspondents throughout the states of Kansas and Nebraska as to the acreage, yield and condition of the wheat crop, it is shown that with but few exceptions the conditions are more favorable in every respect this year than ever before, both as to yield and prevailing prices. Especially is this true as to Kansas. The reports show that except in the years 1891 and 1892. Kansas never raised so large a wheat crop as it did this year, and the prospects are good for the farmers reducing their indebtedness very

materially during the next few months. It has been several years since the price of wheat was so high as it has been in the past month, and the indications seem to be that it will stay up at least for a time, owing to the shortage of crops in foreign countries. Sumner county alone raised 4,500,000 bushels of wheat, being the largest number of bushels ever raised by any one

county in the state of Kansas.

The yield of winter wheat for the entire state is over 49,000,000 bushels and the ability of the farmers to dispose of their crops at the high prices now prevailing will bring many millions of dollars of fresh capital into the state of Kansas alone.

As to corn, the prospects of a month ago have diminished until in several counties the crop has been virtually destroyed, while in a number of others it has been greatly injured by the intense heat and lack of sufficient rainfall. On the whole, however, a very fair crop will be raised, as in a number of counties the yield will be considerably in excess of last year. The reports further show that in some counties the price of corn has advanced over that of last year. This may be accounted for from the fact that the farmers of Kansas, especially in the western part of the state, have gone very largely into the business of feeding cattle, being attracted by the good prices that now prevail. the crop has been virtually destroyed, while

feeding cattle, being attracted by the good prices that now prevail.

Another notable feature of the reports is the abundance of fruits of all kinds, especially peaches and apples.

With regard to the crops in Nebraska, the estimated yield of wheat is placed at between 30,000,000 and 35,000,000 bushels, and of corn, at about 250,000,000 bushels. Other crops are also reported to be in good condition, and the yield will be considerably in excess of last year. In fact, the reports show a very decided change for the better in almost every county as compared with last year.

in almost every county as compared with last year.

The Concordia company's reports from its correspondents for the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon in the West, and for lowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas in the North, indicate that the acreage and yield are large and that crops of all kinds are generally in good condition. With the high prices now prevailing, times will certainly improve and busness will take an upward turn.

rn. Following is a synopsis of reports from ansas counties: Kansas counties:
Allen had a wheat acreage of 3,000 acres with an approximate yield of 57,152 bushels. The county is reported to have reduced its mortgage indebtedness considerably, but approximate figures are lack-

Anderson had about 10 per cent smaller acreage of wheat this year than last. Its crop was 32.944 bushels. Mortgages to the amount of \$125,90.34 were released during the past year. Deducting renewals, foreclosures and deeds to mortgagors, the actual reduction is estimated at \$30,000.

Barber's wheat yield is estimated at 180,50 bushels. It is estimated that ten recuses of mortgages have been filed to each new mortgage. The amount released during the year was \$255,005,83.

Barton is second only to Summer in wheat yield, although McPherson is a close third. The rield, although McPherson is a close third. The estimated crop is 2,760.645 bushels. The report says taxes, interest and mortgages are being paid every day, \$12,000 to \$15,000 of delinquent taxes having been paid within sixty days.

n skry days.

Brown has 630,756 bushels of wheat, and has secured release of \$20,000 of mortgages furing the past year, although the report estimates the new mortgages will nearly

istimates the new mortgages will nearly sifiset this amount.

Butler had 7,000 acres of wheat with an istimated yield of 155,444. The acreage is 1,000 greater than last year. The report lays mortgage indebtedness has been reluced 10 per cent during the year, and that no new loans are being made.

Chautauqua produced 246,340 bushels of wheat, and released \$50,000 of mortgages, 10 per cent of its total mortgage indebtedness.

19 per cent of its total mortgage Indebtedness.

Cherokee had 20,000 acres of wheat, yielding 307,250 bushels. Farm mortgages released amount to about \$300,000.

Clay had 27,254 acres of wheat, yielding \$15,234 bushels. The mortgage indebtedness has been reduced over \$30,000.

Cloud had \$38,734 bushels of wheat. Mortgage indebtedness has been considerably reduced, but the figures are not obtainable.

Cowiev had \$0,000 acres of wheat, yielding 1,461,408 bushels. Mortgage indebtedness has been reduced about 10 per cent, or \$100,000.

Crawford had 25,857 acres of wheat, yielding 322,764 bushels. About \$100,000 of mortgages were released last year, most of them being paid without new mortgages or renewals.

Dickinson had \$4,725 acres of wheat pro-

newals.

Dickinson had 84,725 acres of wheat, producing 1,186,178 bushels. The mortgage indebtedness in eleven months was reduced \$259,756, and the report says more than double this amount will be paid during the

coming year.

Edwards' reports show very much improved conditions, with good prospects.

Mortgage indebtedness has been reduced to per cent, a large proportion being by dereclosure, however. 50 per cent, a large proportion being by foreclosure, however.

Elk's mortgage indebtedness, as reported by the Populist register of deeds, has been reduced \$100,000 during the past year.

Ellis, a western county, has 110,000 acres of wheat, yielding 1,820,816 bushels. Mortgage indebtedness has been reduced \$39,000 in the past six months.

Ellsworth produced 1,621,749 bushels of wheat and reduced mortgage indebtedness \$162,127 in eleven months, exclusive of foreclosure releases.

closure releases.
Finney reports conditions greatly improved, and that mortgage indebtedness has been reduced \$40,000 during the past

has been reduced \$40,000 during the past year.

Ford released \$55,800 of mortgage indebtedness, about \$20,000 of which amount is
offset by new mortgages.

Geary reduced its mortgage indebtedness about \$25,000, and reports the general conditions much better and prospects good.

Mortgages released this year amounted to
\$20,650, offset largely by renewals.

Grant reports about \$10,000 of mortgages
released during the year.

Gray reports mortgage indebtedness reduced about \$10,000.

Greeley has reduced its mortgage indebtedness about \$19,000.

Greenwood paid about \$140,000 of mortgage indebtedness last year and has paid
\$1,100,000 in the past ten years.

Hamilton released \$22,000 mortgages last
year, but principally by foreclosure and
deeds to mortgages of land.

Harvey had \$6,800 acres of wheat, producing \$1,137,280 bushels. The mortgage indebtedness has been reduced about 25 per cent.
The register of deeds says there have been
three releases to one new mortgage reconded.

releases to one new mortgage re-Hodgeman has released \$27,141 of mort-

gage indebtedness, the actual reduction be-ing estimated at about \$23,000.

Jackson has reduced its mortgage indebt-edness approximately \$20,000. There have edness approximately \$30,000. There have been very few cases of defaulted interest on farm loans or delinquent taxes in that

Jefferson has paid about 20 per cent of its mortgage indebtedness the past year and reports general conditions and pros-pects good.

on reports conditions much better. Johnson reports conditions much better. The register of deeds reports many more mortgages have been released than filed.

Jewell reports prospects better than for many years, with a heavy income from cattle and hogs, and much more confidence. Mortgage indebtedness has been reduced but the figures are not obtainable. It is estimated 5,000,000 bushels of wheat and corp of the crop of 1896 are still held in the county.

Klowa reduced its mortgage indebtedness about \$20,000, a large part by fore-closure and deeds to holders of mortgages.
Labette made a net reduction in mortgages indebtedness of \$174,504.87 from August 1, 1806, to August 1, 1807, mortgages released amounting to \$456,491.17 and mortgages recorded to \$281,986,30. The report says the re-

duction will be greater this year than last.

Lane has had \$21,180 of mortgage indebtedness released the past year, and general conditions are reported "50 per cent better."

McPherson was third in the production of wheat, with an acreage of 120,000 and a yield of 2,322,333 bushels. Mortgages released last year amounted to \$334,088,15; mortgages recorded to \$251,170,37, a net reduction in mortgage indebtedness of \$118,887,38. Of this, \$88,555,42 was on farms and \$30,332,32 on city property.

Marlom produced 1,374,403 bushels of wheat. Mortgage indebtedness was decreased materially, but the figures are not obtainable.

Meade has reduced its mortgage indebtedness about \$10,000. Miami has reduced its mortgage indebtedness greatly. General conditions are better. Interest and taxes are defaulted in but few instances.

Mitchell has reduced mortgage indebtedness, but largely by foreclosures. General conditions are much better.

Montgomery has reduced mortgage indebtedness considerably. Conditions are greatly improved over last year.

Morris has reduced its mortgage indebtedness \$3,000, exclusive of renewals and foreclosures. General conditions are improved in all lines.

Morton has released \$7,500 mortgages since January 1.

bitainable. Meade has reduced its mortgage indebted-

Morton has released \$7,500 mortgages since January 1.

Neosho has reduced mortgage indebtedness considerably, but a large part has been by deeds to mortgagees.

Ness county mortgages to the amount of \$42,200 have been released the past year. General conditions are reported much better than last year, with "farmers making money."

money."
Osage reduced its mortgage indebtedness \$75,708 the past year, exclusive of renewals and foreclosures.
Osborne has reduced mortgage indebtedness greatly, approximately \$100,000. General conditions are much better and prospects good.

pects good.
Ottawa reduced its mortgage indebtedness

pects good.
Ottawa reduced its mortgage indebtedness considerably, very few new farm mortgages being made.
Pawnee has reduced mortgage indebtedness greatly. Conditions as compared with last year are reported "as different as day and night."
Pottawatomie has reduced its mortgage indebtedness about 30 per cent. Conditions are much better.
Phillips reduced mortgage indebtedness \$52,800 from January 1 to August 1, mortgages released amounting to \$103,800, and mortgages recorded to \$21,000. The report says "there is no doubt but that people will have more money to spend than any year since 1892."
Pratt reduced mortgage indebtedness \$81,-600, largely by foreclosures and deeds to mortgagees.
Else has reduced mortgage indebtedness.

000, largely by loreciosures and deeds to mortgagees.

Rice has reduced mortgage indebtedness considerably. General conditions are much better than last year and prospects good.

Riley county reduced mortgage indebtedness \$65.302.24, \$211.414.80 being released and \$146,112.56 recorded. The mortgage indebtedness of this county has been reduced \$472,754.66 the past seven years.

Rooks has reduced its mortgage indebtedness considerably. Conditions are much improved.

Rush has reduced mortgage indebtedness. Rush has reduced mortgage indebtedness approximately \$50,000 the past year. The report says "the county never enjoyed such an era of prosperity as is now at hand." Russell has reduced mortgage indebtedness about 10 per cent. Conditions are greatly improved and it is estimated a further reduction of 20 per cent will be made in mortgage indebtedness by December 1. Saline has greatly reduced its mortgage indebtedness. Conditions are much improved and prospects reported better than for many years.

Sedgwick reduced mortgage indebtedness about 10 per cent the past year.

proved and prospects reported better than for many years.

Sedgwick reduced mortgage indebtedness about 10 per cent the past year.

Sheridan has reduced mortgage indebtedness very materially. It is estimated that 50 per cent has been paid the past year. Conditions are much better and prospects good.

Smith reduced its mortgage indebtedness approximately \$30,000 the past year. Conditions are greatly improved.

Stafford reduced mortgage indebtedness slightly. The wheat crop was good, but the corn crop is poor.

Stevens reduced mortgage indebtedness \$5,818.32 by foreclosures. It had 150 acres of wheat, yielding 1,980 bushels. It has 200 acres of wheat, yielding 1,980 bushels. It has 200 acres of corn which is reported "good in spots," The report says "farmers that had mortgages have all left; don't know of one in the county." The general conditions are reported "very much improved, as the people have learned what to raise, and farmers are doing well."

Summer had a wheat acreage of 229,253, yielding 4,585,060 bushels. Mortgage indebtedness has been reduced \$250,000.

Thomas reduced mortgage indebtedness has been reduced \$250,000.

Thomas reduced mortgage indebtedness about \$25,000. The county treasury is receiving five times as much money as last year and farmers are rapidly paying off their debts.

Washington reduced mortgage indebtedness \$29,316 from January 1 to August 23, mortgages released amounting to \$244,954 mortgages filed to \$175,638. General conditions are reported better and prospects very good.

Wichita released \$7,500 mortgages since January 1.

very good.
Wichita released \$7,500 mortgages since January 1.
Woodson released \$105,000 mortgages, exclusive of foreclosures.

Two Simple Rules That Should Be Re-

membered These Hot Summer Days. "Cases of heat prostration among horses would be few if drivers would only observe one or two simple rules," said a veterinary surgeon recently to the Chicago Times-

one or two simple rules," said a veterinary surgeon recently to the Chicago Times-Herald. "It is very easy to see when a horse is threatened with prostration. The animal begins to breathe in quick, sharp gasps, even when standing still. Instead of perspiring profusely, his skin becomes dry. The best thing to do when these symptoms are observed is to get the horse into a cool place and apply cold water. Turning the hose on an animal in such a condition is the best remedy I know of. Pour cold water over the horse's body and do not hesitate about using enough. If ice is handy rub some on the animal's head. If the horse has such a severe stroke that he has fallen, put a blanket or some straw under his head and hold him down until he is strong enough to get up and remain on his feet. At frequent intervals a horse that has fallen on account of the heat will make attempts to get up when he is too weak to stand. These attempts only weaken the horse the more. Keep his head down on the ground and continue the applications of ice and water until the temperature is reduced. Frequently the temperature of a horse laboring under sun stroke will go up as high as 107 degrees. The chances are that even after a horse has been brought to his feet again it will be a 'dummy.' That is, will not be as responsive and intelligent as before. A severe case of sunstroke seems to cause softening of the brain. If you would not have the value of your horse greatly impaired, watch for the earliest symptoms of prostration. Don't let him go so far that he falls down. "Some drivers take the precaution of tying a sponge, a piece of cloth or even a hat between the ears of their horse. A better plan is to carry a sponge and pail of water in the wagon and occasionally moisten the animal's head. If such simple rules are observed many horses will be saved that are otherwise killed or rulned."

MASON LEARNS TO PLAY CARDS. Not All the Grass-Green Farmers Live in the Far West-"There

Are Others."

The details of an interesting case of attempted bunco have been made public, one of the principal actors is Joseph W. Mason, a wealthy farmer, living on the Whitehall road, near Amesbury, Mass. A few days ago Mr. Mason called at one of the local banks and, presenting securities to the amount of \$10,000 asked that he be paid in cash for them. The bank officials were suspicious and refused to give him the money. in cash for them. The bank officials were suspicious and refused to give him the money.

On the day in question Mr. Mason was called on by a finely dressed man, who said he wanted to buy a farm. He had already looked at several farms, but Mr. Mason's suited him best, and an offer was made for it. During their conversation the two men wandered into a field, where a third man was met. After a brief talk one of the strangers showed a large roll of bills and suggested a game of cards.

Mr. Mason declined on the ground that he did not know kow to play cards. Then one of the strangers offered to play for Mr. Mason, and after a few games Mr. Mason was nominally the winner of \$10,000. In a short time, however, he had lost the \$10,000 and several thousands more. The strangers demanded the money they had won, but Mr. Mason said he had no money with him, and emptied his pockets to prove it. Foiled at this point, they demanded his notes, and, seeing that he was far from his house and in the company of desperate men, he told them to go to the house with him and he would straighten matters out.

Arriving at the house he gathered up his securities and came to this city for the purpose of getting them converted into cash, but in this he was unsuccessful. Meantime the two strangers became suspicious and departed.

He Was a Mean Brute.

From the Chicago Post.
"Of course, you remember the case of that man who ran away with a bicycle that had a baby in the handlebar basket

"BEAUTIFIERS" OF THE BEAUTIFUL.

What Paris Offers Those Who Worship at the Shrine of the Goddess of Fashion.



New Corset, Hip Pads, and Wired Petticoat to | Model Showing How Skirt Appears Over Hip Make Remarkable Change in Woman's Figure.

It has been decreed from Paris, which sets the fashion in the woman's world, that women fair shall change their forms with the advent of autumn. From the bathing suit to the ball robe is a long flight, but not more distant than that be-

flight, but not more distant than that between the tennis, golf, or yachting dress of the summer season, and the hip-padded and corsage-lifted accessories which will appertain to women's wardrobes this fall and winter.

Three principal adjuncts will be instrumental in effecting the radical change in figure. These are hip pads, a new corsage, and a strange wired petticoat, which bears some resemblance to the noop skirts of former days.

Women, however stout, and girls, however slender, if they conform to the dictate of fashlon the coming season, will use hip pads. The pads themselves are far from pretentious. Those which can be bought ready made in the shops are of haircloth, either white, gray, or black, and are stuffed with very fine hair. They have two whalebones down the center and are bound with tape. These pads are shaped to fit the hips and exaggerate the natural hips in size from two to four inches.

Up-to-date women will need at least six pairs of hip pads. Those which she reserves for wear with her evening gowns are fragrant with her evening sowns are fragrant with her devening sowns are fragrant with her favorite sachet. In

PULLED UP BY HIS KITE. A Man Dangling at the End of Half a Mile of Rope and Wouldn't

Let Go. When Walter P. Skinner built a big kite in the basement of his residence, No. 512 North Ninth street, Camden, he got it too big for comfort, says the Philadelphia Record. Itwas such a giant, indeed, that he found it impossible to get it out of any of the windows or doors, no matter how he tried. That was discouraging, for Skinner had a lively anticipation of the amazement his kite would create when it went soaring into the skies. Undaunted by this setback, into the skies. Undaunted by this setback, Skinner set to work and cut two feet off the width and as much off the length. Even then the monster was seven feet wide and ten feet high.

Skinner selected Tuesday night for a test

of his huge kite, and it came near taking him off on a voyage through space. With a half mile of good, strong rope tied to it, the kite was carried to open lots between Penn and Pearl streets, opposite Skinner's revidence. News of the anticipated exhibiresidence. News of the anticipated exhibi-tion spread through the vicinity, and a crowd of perhaps 400 persons gathered to see the kite go up. They saw a great deal more than they expected. Skinner got two young men to hold the kite while he and Walter Hoffman, a friend, ran across the lot with the rope to give the monster a start.

start.

A good, fresh breeze was blowing, and soon the kite began to rise, slowly at first, and a good deal like a man under the influence of the ardent. It was as much as the two men could do to hold the rope. There came a lull in the wind, however, and it rose more slowly and gracefully. The crowd applauded as the big object took more and more of the rope and rose higher and higher in the atmosphere. At length all the rope was paid out, and the kite was riding, with scarcely a tremor, high in the heavens.

So well was it laboring that Skinner took the rope alone. In a moment the wind

heavens.

So well was it laboring that Skinner took the rope alone. In a moment the wind brushed up again and before the amazed Skinner realized what was happening he was off his feet and moving over the ground toward the east at a terrific gait. The excited crowd called to him to let go his hold and save himself, but Skinner held on like grim death, determined to save the giant which was making him the plaything. Hoffman ran to the rescue and managed to get hold of the rope, letting Skinner's feet touch terra firma once more.

Even with both men tugging at the rope the kite threatened to get away and they had all they could do to keep their feet by running and relieving the wind pressure. Then they wrapped the rope about a telegraph pole and managed to hold the kite, It took half a dozen men to haul down the giant.

NATURALLY SHOCKED.

An Embarrassment Caused by the Latest Application of the X Rays.,

They had got the new scheme for inspecting baggage by X-rays in operation, and the haughty young woman who had just got off the steamer was waiting to have hers inspected. Furthermore she thought there had been more delay than was necessary and she was somewhat provoked. Consequently when one of the officials motioned her to step a little to one side she declined to move.

There was a short consultation among the officials and one of them finally advanced toward her.

"If madame would kindly—," he began. "Sir!" she interrupted haughtily.

"It would be a great favor if you would move a little." he said rather diffidently.

"Why should I?" she demanded. "It is decidedly presumptuous in you to speak to me at all. I've been waiting here fifteen minutes for my baggage, and during that time you haven't done a thing but stand there and look at me and talk to the other inspectors."

"The fact is," explained the man in the

there and look at me and talk to the other inspectors."

"The fact is," explained the man in the same diffident wiy, as if something worried him, "that you are in the way.

"Of what?" she asked. "It seems to me that you are the most impudent set of officials that I ever knew. The idea of asking me to move as a mere matter of convenience to you! There's plenty of room to inspect the baggage without annoying me, and you ought to be at work at it now."

me, and you ought to be at work at it now."

"But we can't." protested the man. "You see we don't open the trunks any more. We just put them under the X-rays and inspect them that way."

"Well, why don't you do it?" she demanded irritably.
"Because, madam—because—"
The inspector fidgeted about nervously, "Because." he continued at last, "you're standing right in the rays now, where we want to put the trunks."
There was a scream and the place was vacant.

Good for Evil. From Puck.

He-"Jack is an enthusiastic wheelman.
He even argues that the wheel often benefits the pedestrian who is run over."

She-"How?"
He-"Ry amphasizing the fact that he ought to ride, and thus inducing him to get a wheel."

Coldblooded Cruelty.

From the New York Journal.

Miss Antique (delightedly)—"He told me that I always caused him to think of the old, old story."

Miss Pert—"He—he couldn't have meant a back number, could he?"

Not Very Good at That.

From Tuth.

"He is as good as his word."

"Yes, but he uses such shocking bad language."

that you would never give your consent to their marriage under any circumstances," protested the old lady.

"I know it." he admitted, "but later I got to thinking it over, and somehow I couldn't get away from the fact that he has been acting as my cashier for a long time."

"But I don't see."

"Then I remembered that he had spoken once or twice of a desire to visit the City of Mexico."

"But what has that to do with..."

"I recalled also that Mabel had said something about enjoying a trip to Mexico."

something about enjoying a trip to Mexico."
"I still fail to understand—"
"That's because you're not in business,"
interrupted the old gentleman. "If you had
ever had occasion to make a study of
these matters you would see the advantage
of having your confidential clerk and your
daughter marry at home rather than in
some place from which extradition is more
or less difficult, and so keep the money
where you at least have a show of getting
some of it. It's a good deal easier and more
satisfactory than hiring detectives. It also
avoids a scandal, financial and the other
kind."
And, after pondering the matter for kind."

And, after pondering the matter for some time, the old lady, like a wise woman, decided to bow to her husband's will and do what little she could to assist him in keeping the money in the family.

TO COME BACK AS TOURISTS. Tipping Said to Be in Practice in

Dealing With Custom House

The announcement that the Merchants and Manufacturers' board of trade, of New York City, alleging that the personal baggage of homecoming Americans is undervalued, and that the system of "tipping" custom house inspectors still exists, and that it intends to take steps to put a stop, if possible, to the evils, created widespread interest, particularly in commercial circles.

The board is to send detectives to Europe, and have them return to this country in the disguise of American tourists, Mr. Beardsley, chairman of the finance committee, said:

"We shall raise \$10,000, if necessary, and if that is not enough, we shall get \$20,000. One firm, the name of which I am not at liberty to disclose, has already subscribed \$1,000.

"This is supposed to be an administration which earring out the ween administration Inspectors.

liberty to disclose, has already subscribed \$1,000.

"This is supposed to be an administration which carries out the principles of protection, but it seems to the merchants of New York the protection is all for the government, and that instead of it being protection that the administration is concerned about, it is revenue that it is thinking of more than anything else.

"It is certainly gross injustice to the merchants of this country to compel them to pay heavy duties, and then permit a lot of persons who have been enjoying themselves and spending their money in Europe to come back with a lot of articles and escape paying duties which they ought to pay. There is nothing fair in that, and the merchants of this city, or at least those who are members of our association, intend to see if a more just and equitable condition of affairs cannot be brought about."

FOUDER OF A DOWRY SOCIETY. He Hoped to Bring Followers of the Three Great Prophets

Together. Lazarus Morgenthau, 83 years old, who came rather prominently before the public about a year ago in connection with the founding of a marriage endowment society, orgenthau's Marriage Endowment So

Morgenthau's Marriage Endowment Society was designed to aid orphan girls of good character to marry. Three weddings were held under the auspices of the society during its brief career—two in the "Temple of Humanity." as Morgenthau termed the headquarters of the society in his home, and one in Terrace Garden. In each instance the bridg received a dowry sufficient to establish her in a modest way.

In the old man's home his portrait hung on the wall, with pictures of Moses, Luther and Christ grouped about. Morgenthau used to explain that he was not so great as the others, but that he hoped to merit his place near them by bringing the followers of the three prophets together.

ON THE ORIGIN OF THINGS.

THE WAY THE "COCKTAIL" CAME INTO EXISTENCE.

Origin of the Custom of Kissing the Bible-The Cake Walk Formerly a Marriage Ceremony-Garden of Eden in Indiana.

The origin of the American "cocktail"

The origin of the American "cocktail" is admittedly obscure, and many attempts have been made to trace it. An ingenious but unconvincing explanation that has lately gone the rounds of the press gives it medical significance. The old doctors, they say, had a practice of treating certain discases of the throat with a pleasant liquor applied with the tip end of a long feather plucked from a cock's tail. They presently began to use this preparation as a gargle, and the name cocktail clung to it. The gargle gave way to an appetizer—to a mixture of bitters, vermouth and liquor that is still in occasional demand.

For my own part, says a writer in the American Epleure, I prefer indefinitely the story of the Mexican beauty. According to this legend, the original cocktail was made from pulque, an alcoholic beverage distilled from the juice of the maguey, or agave. The liquor, so 'tis said, was discovered by a Toltec noble, who sent some of it to the king by the hand of his daughter. The monarch drank the pulque and looked at the maiden. Whether the lady's looks gave pleasanter flavor to the liquor or whether the taste of the liquor made the lady seem the fairer, is not certain; but the king, at any rate, fell in love with both, started a pulque plantation and married the girl, whose name, Xochitl, thus became associated with the national intoxicant. The rest is easy. When General Scott's troops came to Mexico they drank the liquor, liked it, and, with the easy adaptability of the Saxon, simplified its Aztec name into 'cocktail,'' which they carried back with them to the States.

"LONG TIME BETWEEN DRINKS."

"LONG TIME BETWEEN DRINKS." The Alleged Origin of a Remark Now Famous Throughout the

Country.

Modd Showing How Skirt Appears Over Hip
Puds and Wired Petticoat.

In fact, the hip pads are the newest place for hiding the sachet bag.

The latest Prench of the hips. It is made short on the hips, and if properly laced gives the fagure a tapering wait and raiser of the summer.

The latest Prench of the hour still national states the low busy, but it is perpulsaly higher than the corset of the summer.

The Parisin corset of the hour still national states the low busy, but it is perpulsaly higher the box busy higher than the corset of the summer.

The Parisin corset of the hour still national states the low busy, but it is perpulsaly higher the low busy, but it is perpulsaly higher the box busy but it is perpulsaly higher the low busy, but it is perpulsal higher the low busy, but it is perpulsal higher the low busy higher the low busy high the low busy high the low busy higher the low busy higher the low busy high the low

The fugitive was never surrendered. ORIGIN OF THE CAKE WALK. Formerly a Marriage Ceremony-Has Lost Its Old Significance in

the South.

The cake walk proper had its origin among the French negroes of Louisiana more than a century ago. There is little doubt that it is an offshoot of some of the old French country dances. It resembles several of them in form. From New Orleans it spread over the entire South and thence to the North. It was found of convenience to the plantation negroes. They were not wedded by license, and it was seldom that the services of a preacher were called in. At a cake walk a man might legitimately show his preference for a woman and thus publicly claim her for wife. In effect the cake walk was not different from the old Scotch marriage, which required only public acknowledgment from the contracting parties. So this festival became in some sense a wooing, an acceptance or rejection and a ceremony. ment from the contracting parties. So this festival became in some sense a woolng, an acceptance or rejection and a ceremony, This explains its popularity with the blacks, outside of its beauties, with the accompaniment of musle, which is competent at all times to command negro support. Cake walking has improved, as do most things that are constantly practiced. It has lost its old significance in the South. Negroes now get married, when they marry at all, in white folks' fashion. It has become, however, a pantomimic dance. Properly performed, it is a beautiful one. The cake is not much of a prize, though the negro has a sweet tooth.

THE ORIGIN OF PNEUMATICS. Dublin Surgeon Invented Them to Relieve the Suffering of an Invalid Child.

Invalid Child.

Ireland, as everybody knows, is the home of the pneumatic tire. The desire of a Dublin surgeon to relieve the suffering of his little daughter, who was a cripple, was the incentive for the making of the first pneumatic tires. Confined to the use of an invalid's chair on wheels in getting from place to place, the little girl complained of the jolting as she was propelled over the rough streets of the Emeraid isle's capital. To relieve her distress her father caused two air tubes, circular in form, to be constructed and fitted to the wheels of the invalid's chair. From this sprang the pneumatic tire for bicycles. Crude in its beginning, a source of alternate joy and sorrow to the bicycle rider, derided by the solid tire adherent, its advent was halled with mingled doubt and glee. And what a curious looking thing the first pneumatic tired bleycle was. It was confidently asserted that such a clumsy, heavy-looking thing would never be popular.

KISSING THE HOLY BIBLE. Origin of the Custom Prevalent in American Courts Is Involved

In Mystery.

It is generally assumed that "kissing the book" is, or at any rate, was until recently, a necessary part of the legal ceremony of oath taking. This assumption is, however, probably not justified. It would appear that the most ancient form of swearing in the Christian church was to lay the hand upon the gospels and say, "So help me God and these holy gospels." This seems to have been the usual ceremony accompanying a judicial oath, until at all events, the end of the sixteenth century, for Lord Coke says: "It is called a cornoral oath because he (the witness) toucheth with his hand some part of the holy scriptures." Coke says not one word about kissing the book.

When the practice of kissing the book began is, says the Law Journal, undetermined. It has been stated that this form was first prescribed as part of the ceremony of taking the oaths of allegiance and supremacy. It is interesting and may be significant to note that Shakespeare only once alludes to the marctice of kissing the

book, and on that occasion turns it into ridicule. Whatever the origin of the practice, there can be no doubt that kissing the book was the ceremony that usually accompanied the taking of an oath in an English court of justice in the seventeenth century. But in 1857 there occurred a case which is of some importance. It appears that on a jury trial Dr. Owen, vice chancellor of Oxford university, being called as a witness, refused to be sworn in the usual way, by laying his right hand on the book and afterward kissing it, but he caused the book to be held open before him and he raised his right hand. The jury doubting what credit they ought to give to his oath, the matter was referred to the chief justice, who ruled that Dr. Owen "had taken as good an oath as any other witness." And then the chief justice added an observation which, in "Cowper's Reports," in "Macnally on Evidence" and elsewhere, is misquoted as follows: "If I were to be sworn I would kiss the book." Now that is not at all what the chief justice said. The words in Sideriin's report are these: II dit si il fult destre Jure ii volit deponer sa main dexter sur le liver mesme. Thus the chief justice says not one word about kissing the book.

ORIGINAL GARDEN OF EDEN. A Hermit Claims That the Site Was in

Lake County, Ind.-Rends History in the Rocks.

State Geologist Blatchley, in making a survey of Lake county, reports that while in the western part of the county, near the Kankakee, he met an eccentric hermit named Dan Parmlee, who gives much of his time to the study of rocks and prehistoric or pioneer relics.

He reads the history of the creation in the rocks which he finds, and upon meeting the state geologist he insisted that Lake county marked the original site of the Garden of Eden. He also exhibited a rock shaped like a serpent's head, which he insisted was the head of the serpent that tempted Eve.

This hermit had collected much material, but, although claiming to be a geologist, he was unable to write and it was his chief desire to find a woman for a wife who could do his writing for him.

THEY LIVE AND DIE UNKNOWN.

The Hinklevites of Pennsylvania Are a Strange Band of People-Their History and Customs.

One of the strangest sects in the United States, whose existence was until recently practically almost unknown, are the Hink-leyites, who occupy a small settlement among Pennsylvania's hills, a few miles from the New York state line, not far from the city of Binghamton. There, strange as it may seem in these hard times, money is a drug on the market, and yet the inhabitants are contented and happy. But it is doubtful, though, if all the money in the entire community were scraped together, it would foot up more than \$10 at any one time, says the New York Herald.

This pecular settlement is known as Hinkley's Corners. It consists of a half-dozen houses, a like number of barns and other outbuildings, and a frame structure used as a place of worship in cold weather. As long as the weather will permit the religious rites of this strange sect are held in the open air, usually in a cave near the woods.

The history of this peculiar community

As long as the weather will permit the religious rites of this strange sect are held in the open air, usually in a cave near the woods.

The history of this peculiar community is a strange one. About thirty-five years ago a man named Hinkley began preaching a crusade in the city of Pittsburg. He claimed that Christianity, by disregarding the Mosaic laws, had violated one of the principles upon which it was founded. Hinkley's crusade was so much of a success, many prominent persons following his standard, that the police suddenly put a stop to the sacrifices. The result of this threat was to cause Hinkley and a few followers to emigrate to the mountains, there to start the peculiar settlement that exists to-day. While working about the farms the men wear ragged clothes that in the summer season scarcely cover their bodies, but on Saturdays, the day set apart for public worship, they don their best apparel. The services open with an invocation, the sacrifice having been previously prepared and laid on the altar. The fire is then lighted, and if the smoke arises in a straight column both men and women burst into songs of thanksgiving, but should the smoke hang in a cloud above the altar a weird, walling song fills the air until the priest has replenished the fire, prepared an eaw offering and the smoke ascends directly heavenward.

A strangely weird and solemn sight is a funeral among these strange beople. The body is carried to its last resting place on a bier, the grave having previously been lined with straw, and into this the uncofilned remains are lowered. Each person in attendance then sprinkles a handful of earth on the corpse, all the while chanting the funeral hymn, and finally passing out of the graveyard, until only the sexton is left to complete the work of burying the dead.

A wedding is an unusually quiet affair. The contracting parties call upon the priest, who is the chief are call upon the priest, who requires them to sign an agreement to live together as man and wife, and then performs a short ce

THE PRAIRIE STATES.

One of the Greatest of Peaceful and Happy Conquests in the

World's History. The history of civilization and the record of empire making contain no such amazing story of vast and swift development as that which is briefly told by the foremost of British statisticians, Mr. Mulhall, of the growth of the "Prairie States" of the United States in the past forty years, says Leslie's Weckly.

England added a greater area and an enormously larger population to her empared to the states in the past forty years. enormously larger population to her em-pire when India was made tributary to the throne, but this was done by conquest and successive subjugations extending

pire when India was made tributary to the throne, but this was done by conquest and successive subjugations extending through many years.

Russia is slowly developing an agricultural territory as large as, or larger than, that included in the Prairie States, but the condition of the majority of the czar's subjects is not to be compared in any way with that vigorous, intelligent and progressive clitzenship that has created within forty years this spiendid agricultural compire of the West.

It is a marvelous story. Take one group of states pre-eminently agricultural—Minnesota, Kansas, Nchraska, and the two Dakotas. Those who were school children at the time of the civil war can remember how vaguely the geographies described the region included in these states, and how those from the East who had journeyed thither were thought to have taken a wonderful trip into a far country. The white population in all that country was less than 10,000 when Buchanan became president. To-day that population is not far from 5,00,000, while the wealth produced there is even greater than the increase in population. Eight times as much grain—in some parts a vastly greater increase than that—and nearly four times greater meat products have come from this region, while land has been placed under subjugation so that it yields richly of the fruits of the earth, greater in area than the aggregate superfices of the German empire. Holland, Belgium and Denmark—that is, all of Europe between the Rhine and Russia, and north of the Austrian empire.

It has been one of the greatest of peaceful and happy conquests, as it has been the swiftest, in all the world's history. It has added hundreds of millions to the permanent wealth of the United States, and it is now producing yearly products of the soil worth nearly two billion dollars. is now producing yearly products of the soil worth nearly two billion dollars.

The Philosophy of Wearing Out Shoes. The Philosophy of Wearing Out Shoes.

Young people wear shoes out more rapidly than their elders, owing to buoyant proclivities to kick the world before them, says Hide and Leather. With maturity comes age, possibly matrimony, and probably children, hence increased demand for shoes. Economy then forces elderly shoe wearers to pick their way more cautiously, hence to prolong the life of their shoes.

Further, as the years lengthen, tendency to exercise decreases, and old shoes, like old friends, are more solicitously cared for. Care of shoes is not one of the signs of old age, but it is a large and luminious fact that old people make their shoes last longer old age, but it is a large and luminious fact that old people make their shoes last longer than do young people.

Beneficent Corporations.

Heneficent Corporations.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

"It is all right to howl against the railroads," said the stubby man with the chin beard, "but life would be a dreary waste without 'em."

"What good do the railroads do you?" asked the thin man. "I know to my own personal knowledge that you haven't traveled forty miles in the past three years."

"What if I ain't? How could we have any baseball leagues if it wasn't fer the railroads?"

An Unexpected Maneuver.

From Puck.
"Here is a report that Weyler has surprised the entire Cuban army."
"Nonsense! How did he do it?"
"By letting a week pass without claiming to have suppressed the insurrection."

GAYE AWAY \$250,000.

TITLE TO A RICH MINE GIVEN ON A TOMATO CAN LABEL.

W. W. Caldwell, of St. Joseph, Mo., Rea turns From the Klondike-It Is Not's Poor Man's Coun-

try, He Says.

W. W. Caldwell, of St. Joseph, Mo., in returning home with a considerable for-tune, says the New York World. He went to

W. W. Caidwell, of St. Joseph, Mo., is returning home with a considerable for tune, says the New York World. He went to the Yukon country in March, 1825, and was one of the first on the Klondike last fail, locating a claim on Eldorado creek, which he worked for a few weeks in the spring, turning out \$4,999. Meanwhile he had secured a claim on Bonanza and another on Hunker creek. Later on he picked up a fractional interest in a claim at the mouth of French gulich, where it empties into Eldorado. He has sold some of his properties, but still retains an interest in some of the richest claims.

Like all the other returning Yukoners, Caidwell refuses to say just what his clean-up has been, and says he thinks that many of the first ones out were rated too high. From excellent sources it is learned that his clean-up was over \$3,099.

"While there will be many phenomenal claims located on Hunker, Gold Bottom and other creeks in the district," he said, "there is no creek so far known that will equal Bonanza and Eldorado. There is little use to try and tell how rich these creeks are, for no one knows. They are richer than anything that has ever been found in the world so far. Larger nuggets and richer pockets have been found in many places, but history has no record where the pay streak has been so wide and the gold so evenly divided as on these two creeks.

"Tor instance, on claim 43, below Discovery, on Bonanza creek, the pay streak has been prospected for a width of 200 feet. These two creeks will be enormous producers for the next ten years at least.

"There are big chances for capital on the Yukon. There are many miles of good ground which will yield handsomely when worked on a large scale, which the average miner can't now afford to work. A year's outfit costs from \$750 to \$1,009, and a prospector must find pretty good ground to make his board bill. Besides this he has to do an immense amount of work in order to get his ground opened up. Consequently he looks for the rich parts only, whereas couffit costs from \$750

but it must be backed by enough cash to buy a year's supplies.

"What do I think about the outlook on the Klondike for this winter? Well, when there is grub enough for only one man and there are three men to eat it, somebody is going to be hungry. That is about the situation. There are supplies for not over half the people who are headed there. Walt until the last boats come back. You will see people coming out, and mighty glad to return. No hard luck story that comes from Dawson next spring, no matter how bad it may be, will surprise me. By March I will be on my way over the trail, and expect to come out again next summer. My claims will be systematically worked this winter, and I hope will prove satisfactory."

winter, and I hope will prove satisfactory."

The way Caldwell got his Bonanza creek claims reads like a romance. He went up to Hunker with Hunker and Johnson, discoverers of the creek, helping them on the way. When he reached Hunker everything was taken, but his partners had located No. 46. He was about to return to Forty-Mile and felt cast down, when C. M. Johnson said:

said:
"See here, Bill, I am not going to see you go back without a claim of your own in the district. I have one over on Bonanza that I will give you."
"All right," said Caldwell, "make out the bill of sale." All right, said Caldwell, "make out the bill of sale,"
"I don't know whether you want it," said Johnson; "it is nothing but an old moose pasture, and is not worth much, but if you want it you can have it."

When they came to look for a paper on which to write the transfer, none was to be found. They took the label from an empty tomato can, and this unique and vivid-colored document is now on file with the gold commissioner. The claim could not be purchased for less than \$250.000, although nothing more than prospecting has been done on it.

FAITHFULNESS OF JAP WOMEN,

A Native Writer Says They Are the Truest and Bravest in the World.

World.

A Japanese wife is the most faithful woman on the face of the earth, writes a Japanese in the Boston Transcript. An example of this may not be out of place. Once upon a time there lived a great warrfor. He was the strongest fighter at that time. He had a beautiful cousin whom he loved very much. While he was away from home during one of the wars, the cousin was married to a certain young man. On his return he met her one day together with her husband at the games. Learning that she was married he became furious, went to see her in her house and tried to force her to divorce her husband, or else threatened to kill her mother, who had consented to the wedding. She, being afraid to tell her husband about this, lest he should fight her cousin and be killed, hit upon this plan. She told her cousin to come that night to her house and enter her room through a window which she would leave open. She would cover her head with the sheet and he was to strike off the head not so covered. Her cousin followed her directions, and having come to the bed, found one head exposed and cut it off. On examining it in the moonlight he saw to his horror that he had killed his beloved cousin, who had sacrificed her life for her husband and her mother. The warrior was so overcome with grief and so shocked by this tragedy that he shaved his hair, and, becoming a priest, spent the rest of his days in repentance and prayer.

he shaved his hair, and, becoming a priest, spent the rest of his days in repentance and prayer.

It is, therefore, not exaggerated when Mr. Henry Norman says: "The Japanese wife is faithful to a fault, and adultery on her part is almost unknown." Miss Alice Bacon gives us an interesting account of thoughtful and tender-hearted Japanese women. She says: "Certainly a Japanese man is lucky in having all the little things in his life attended to by his thoughtful wife—a good, considerate, careful body servant, always on hand to bear for him the trifling worries and cares. It is no wonder that there are no bachelors in Japan. To some degree, I am sure, the men appreciate these attentions; for they often become much in love with their sweet, helpful wives, though they do not share with them the greater things of life, the ambitions and the hopes of men."

things of life, the ambitions and the hopes of men."

It is true that a Japanese woman is so tender, mindful and self-sacrificing that even while in the agony of sorrow she wears her ever-smiling countenance, so that her neighbors may not be disturbed. What a wonderful perseverence and self-possession this is! What we ought to do in the way of elevating woman's position in Japan is to induce the stronger sex to condescend to the weaker sex; nay, even to imitate the refined character and noble demeanor of the Japanese women.

THE PRESIDENT'S MAIL.

One Branch of the White House Busie ness Which Is Never Dull-No Diminution in Vacation.

There is one branch of the White House business which shows almost no midsum-mer duliness. The letters to the president of the United States show little diminution mer dullness. The letters to the president of the United States show little diminution in volume, and require about the same force to take care of them as in midwinter. A good many of them are addressed to the president at his vacation residence, and are forwarded to the White House, says a correspondent of the New York Evening Post. Of these letters from the people, in distinction from the political leaders and men of note, it is safe to say that the writers generally expect that the president will personally read and attend to them. To make this assurance doubly sure, they put the word "personal" or "private" in the corner of the envelope, and sometimes in a burst of over-caution "strictly private." Occasionally the words "Private Secretary Porter please not read" are added. This last direction is religiously observed, for the mass of letters addressed to the president never get so near him as the private secretary, but are opened, read, answered and filed away by the executive clerks and their stenographic assistants. It is said that anybody who reads this mail addressed to the president would be able without ever looking at a newspaper to know what is going on in the world, Every important event is reflected in this popular correspondence.

A Likely Pince.

From Tit-Bits.

"Where," said the auctioneer," addressing an audience of possible purchasers,
"where else on the face of the globe will
you find in one place copper, tin, fron,
cotton, hemp, grain, game—"
And a voice in the crowd replied:

"In the pockets of my youngest son!"

He Doesn't Snore Now.

From the Cleveland Leader.

"You used to complain that your husband snored so hard that he kept you awake at night. Do you still have that trouble?"

"How did you stop it?"
"Well, we've got a baby now."